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THERE'S ANOTHER BUN IN THE OVEN

SEVEN MONTHS AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO A GIRL, JESSICA SIMPSON IS REPORTEDLY PREGNANT AGAIN PAGE 26

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SIR PAUL SALUTES ALBERTA

Paul McCartney gestures to the crowd at Rexall Place in Edmonton on Wednesday night during the first of two sold-out shows in the provincial capital. The former member of the Beatles performs again Thursday night.
ASPEN ZETTEL/FOR METRO

City approves 5.5% tax hike

A council divided. Late attempt to push tax hike below five per cent defeated by 9-5 vote, as majority opts to maintain earlier commitment to invest in infrastructure

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Calgary's property taxes will rise by 5.5 per cent in 2013.

That's the final figure after three days of debate at city council that saw the police budget reduced by $4 million and transit funding increased by about $2 million in order to expand low-income fares to more people.

The debate over how to spend roughly $3 billion next year also saw the rejection of a plan hatched by Ald. Peter Demong to use $8.5 million earmarked for capital projects to knock the tax hike below five per cent.

The city budget passed by a 10-4 vote, with Demong, Ald. Shane Keating, Ald. Andre Chabot and Ald. Dale Hodges opposed.

"We are trying to create a sustainable city, yet we're putting forward an unsustainable tax rate," Demong said.

But Mayor Naheed Nenshi said Calgarians get good value for their money.

"Their property taxes remain among the lowest in Canada and they receive and incredibly high quality of service for that," he said.

Ald. Brian Pincott, who put forward the motion on transit fares, said it's a budget council should be proud of.

"There are really good things in this budget, really good things that we have done as a group," he said.

Council also voted on how to spend $10.2 million in "tax room" from the provincial government on capital projects next year. This is the pot of money from which Demong wanted to take $8.5 million to reduce the tax hike.

Eric Sawyer, the city's chief financial officer, said the 5.5-per-cent hike will mean an increase of roughly $76 on the average homeowner's annual property tax bill.

Tracking the money

How will Calgary spend $10.2 million earmarked for capital projects?

- $2 million for sidewalks, curbs and gutters.
- $2 million for improving transit reliability.
- $2 million for reducing traffic congestion.
- $2 million for maintenance on city buildings.
- $2.2 million for the city's Capital Conservation Grant, which supports organizations that maintain community-operated infrastructure on city land.

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Ryan Lane case

Arrest made in murder of Calgary father

A man is in custody in connection with the murder of Calgary father Ryan Lane, but, as of press time, police had yet to lay charges against him, or against two other suspects.

Lane, 24, went missing last February and police revealed last week that his body had been recovered after an exhaustive search. At that time, investigators also said they expected to lay first-degree murder charges against three unnamed suspects.

On Wednesday morning, one of those suspects was taken into custody, a release says.

Lane's father said last week that he believes his son's death was linked to a child-custody dispute and that he may have died around the time of his first court-ordered visit with his daughter.

Police said no further details will be released until charges have been formally laid. METRO

Investigation

Baby found dead in Dover home

An autopsy is scheduled for Thursday after a seven-month-old girl was found dead in a Calgary home early on Wednesday.

Police were called to a home in the 3600 block of 28th Avenue S.E. shortly after midnight, according to Insp. Terry Larson, and found an unresponsive girl inside.

"Circumstances surrounding the death are undetermined at this point," Larson said.

Police refrained from specifying who was in the home at the time and what caused the girl's death. METRO

Gary Strother, superintendent of the Calgary Catholic School District, and trustee board chair Mary Martin attend a Wednesday-night meeting during which publicly elected board members voted in favour of school-based vaccinations for human papillomavirus. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

HPV shots OK'd in Catholic schools

Decision. Trustees heed overwhelming support from parents, vote unanimously in favour of program

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Catholic schools in Calgary could begin offering a vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV) before the school year is out, and will also move to immunize students who were missed during four years of opposition to the publicly funded program.

Those decisions were made during a meeting on Wednesday night that followed a consultation period with all but one of the Calgary Catholic School District's 105 schools — 91 of those supported the program.

"We believe that our parents are the first and best educators," said Mary Martin, the trustee chair of the district.

The vaccination has proved effective against the virus, which can lead to cervical cancer, and every other major Catholic school district in Canada has adopted a program already.

Dr. Susan Bornemisza, a specialist in sexual reproductive health, said the district's decision to reverse its stance on school-based vaccinations has been a long time coming.

She was involved with the pro-vaccine group HPV Calgary, which had threatened to sue the district if it continued to reject the vaccination program under the claim it violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"It's kind of exciting to think 10 years from now I won't have to give as much bad news," Bornemisza said. "It's huge for physicians."

HPV Calgary estimates that as many as 16,000 Catholic students were not offered the vaccine over the past four years.

The district had made a point in the past of providing a letter from Alberta Health Services advising of places where immunization was offered outside the school. But it also included a message from spiritual leader Bishop Fred Henry expressing his concern about the measure.

Vaccine nation

- Parents whose children are with the Calgary Catholic School District will still be required to provide written consent before their child can be vaccinated against HPV, a common practice for immunizations offered by both public and separate school boards.
- Typically, the vaccination is offered to girls in grades five and nine, but the district will work to make it available to other students in between those grades, district trustee chair Mary Martin said.

Calgary victim's mother files formal complaint with police

Homicide review. Internal investigation already pledged by police chief

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Still grieving the loss of her slain daughter, a Calgary mother hand-delivered formal complaint letters to city police and the overseeing commission Wednesday concerning officers' handling of what she says were repeated pleas for help.

And Shelly Jones, mother of victim Lacey Jones-McKnight, said she's willing to obtain legal counsel, too, should police refuse to take her allegations seriously.

"I am fed up," she said. "I would prefer to do this on my own — this is a promise I made to Lacey, but I won't stop until I see that they have made some people accountable."

Jones-McKnight, 20, was found dead inside a car Oct. 25. Her accused killer and ex-boyfriend, Kristopher (Tray) Guenther, attempted to hang himself from a bridge nearby, according to police.

Shelly Jones maintains that she had begun phoning police in the weeks prior to that tragic night, reporting alleged threats and actions by the accused, including him slashing the tires on a family car.

Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson has already pledged a full review of the case, but did specify to reporters last month that Jones-McKnight's situation had not been classified high-risk at the time of her death.

At that time, 300 other domestic violence cases had been given such a designation, Hanson said.

Shelly Jones described a lack of willingness from approximately 10 police officers who responded over time to her various complaints.

"I want protocols put in place so this never happens again," she said. "Lacey and I made those calls (to police) and all they kept saying was 'Just keep calling.' If I stop now, this is going to happen to another girl."

Domestic violence

- **Historic lows.** Calgary police have reported historic lows in domestic violence-related homicides as well as overall incidents in areas of the city where the domestic conflict response team operates.
- **Response team.** That team combines the efforts of police and social workers to provide a more comprehensive approach to deal with violence in the home, but was not operational in the jurisdiction where homicide victim Lacey Jones-McKnight lived.
- **Accused.** Jones-McKnight's accused killer, Kristopher (Tray) Guenther, was deemed fit to stand trail Monday after undergoing a mental-health assessment.

Shelly Jones, mother of Lacey Jones-McKnight, who is seen in the photo on the wall. Jones has filed a complaint with Calgary police over the handling of the case that led to her 20-year-old daughter's death. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Alberta budget still on track for $3B deficit

Alberta is getting squeezed by volatile oil prices and stiff competition and remains on track to rack up a budget deficit as high as $3 billion this year, Alberta Finance Minister Doug Horner said Wednesday.

"Right now the difference between the world price for a barrel of oil and what our producers can get for their bitumen is about $28. Multiply that by about 2.5 million barrels a day and the math adds up very quickly," Horner told reporters while he delivered the second-quarter 2012-13 budget update.

Horner said Alberta is hampered by a lack of pipeline capacity to the U.S. and beyond.

The forecast is for a deficit between $2.3 billion and $3 billion.

It matches the first-quarter update, but is a far cry from the government's original deficit projection of $886 million.

NDP

"We have forgone billions of dollars in revenues through unnecessary tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Albertans, as well as continuing to have the lowest royalties in the world."
NDP Leader Brian Mason

The PCs have budgeted to raise $40.3 billion and spend $41 billion for the year.

Alberta will use the $5 billion in its sustainability fund piggy bank to cover any shortfall.

Opposition critics say the government can't be crying poor given that oil prices are still strong and the provincial economy is chugging along.

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith called it a "train wreck" budget from a government that is now seeing $531 million going out the door every year in borrowing charges.

"We have a government that is overseeing one of the strongest economies in North America (but) can't balance its budget," said Smith.

NDP Leader Brian Mason said the government is going down a path of spending and borrowing that can't be sustained, and the price will ultimately be paid by Albertans.

"The result is we're going to see not only broken promises but program cuts coming forward in next spring's budget, and I think Albertans better be prepared to see that."

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By the end of 2012, the Calgary Parking Authority is projected to hand out more than 7,000 tickets to able-bodied drivers parking in handicap stalls. Some of the biggest problem areas include malls and LRT lots. RYAN KESSLER/FOR METRO

City sees spike in motorists misusing handicap stalls

Seasonal problem.
Winter months create particularly troublesome time getting around for those struggling with disabilities

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Enforcement is being ramped up at Calgary parking stalls designated for handicapped citizens as officials are reporting a surge in inconsiderate motorists.

The most common areas where drivers see fit to park in stalls clearly marked by a handicap sign or traditional blue-and-white paint include LRT lots, mall parking areas and the Beltline neighbourhoods, according to information provided by the Calgary Parking Authority.

If projections hold true, the organization will issue more than 7,000 tickets for handicap stall infractions this year, that's up from 6,095 in 2011.

"Those spaces are there for a reason," said Noreen Branagh, program co-ordinator at the Rehabilitation Society of Calgary. "It can impact aides too. Try pushing a wheelchair through a parking lot covered in snow."

The increase in violations comes despite a city-approved increase to the related fine in January 2010 of $50. A ticket now costs $200 initially and rises to $250 if paid after 10 days and $300 after 30 days.

"It's a significant fine," said parking authority head Troy McLeod, adding his officers will be on extra patrols throughout the month of December.

Jack Smart with the city's advisory committee on accessibility deemed motorists caught in handicap stalls "disrespectful."

"Please don't park there, even for a few minutes," he said.

Citizens are encouraged to report vehicles parking illegally in handicap stalls by calling 403-537-7100 and choosing option two.

Court martial

Prosecution argues soldier abdicated his duty

A military prosecutor says a Calgary reservist turned a blind eye to safety standards and abdicated his duty as a leader during a training exercise in Afghanistan that saw one soldier killed and four others wounded.

"Command has to mean something," said military prosecutor Maj. Tony Tamburro during final arguments at the court martial of Maj. Darryl Watts. "It's not about wearing stripes or going to the officers club. It means being responsible to those under your command.

"It was his duty to stop the range. He followed his troops to an area of danger. He should have led his troops to an area of safety."

Watts, 44, faces six charges, including manslaughter, unlawfully causing bodily harm, breach of duty and negligent performance of duty in the Feb. 12, 2010 accident on a training range four kilometres north of Kandahar city.

Cpl. Josh Baker, 24, died when a Claymore anti-personnel mine, packed with 700 steel balls, peppered a platoon of Canadian troops working on the range.

Baker was struck four times and one of the steel balls penetrated his chest.

While the prosecution argued that Watts was the leader that day and could have prevented the accident, the defence argued that punishing Watts criminally would be wrong.

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Tory pollster puts Harper on the spot

Liberals want PM to apologize.
Firm censured for conducting a misinformation campaign against MP

Liberals are demanding an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper over the conduct of a Tory pollster.

Campaign Research was censured for conducting a misinformation campaign against MP Irwin Cotler.

An investigation by the market research industry's watchdog, the Market Research and Intelligence Association, concluded Wednesday that the actions of Campaign Research Inc. brought the industry into disrepute.

The association received seven complaints of professional misconduct against Campaign Research.

The complaints related to a voter identification poll the company conducted last autumn on behalf of the federal Conservative party in Cotler's Montreal riding.

The company's callers suggested to constituents — falsely — that Cotler either had or was about to quit as Liberal MP.

Cotler said the Conservatives must now take responsibility for the conduct of their pollster.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"The effort to dislodge Mr. Cotler was, to use a technical term, disgusting. It was beyond any standard we've ever known."

Bob Rae,
interim Liberal leader

Hi, partner!

They're partners in trade. Two North American leaders meet in Ottawa to cement ties and talk economics. Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexico's president-elect Enrique Pena Nieto hold a news conference on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. Pena Nieto was making a whirlwind visit just three days before being sworn in. He had travelled to Washington, D.C., to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama. Pena Nieto wants to encourage Canadian investment in his country's state-run oil company.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Status vote. UN bid the last chance to secure two-state solution, Palestinians say

A bid for UN recognition of a state of Palestine is a last-ditch attempt to rescue troubled Middle East peace efforts, a Palestinian spokeswoman said Wednesday, rejecting Israel's charge that it is an attempt to bypass negotiations.

Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official, urged the U.S. to drop its opposition to the bid, dismissing Washington's stance as "pathetic" and harmful to American interests in the region. The Palestinians have come under intense pressure from the U.S., Britain and others to modify the bid but "have not succumbed," she said.

On Thursday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas plans to ask the UN General Assembly to recognize Palestine in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem — areas Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, but still controls most access.

The Palestinians expect some two-thirds of the General Assembly's 193 members will accept Palestine as a non-member observer state. The U.S., Israel, Canada and a few others are opposed.

The vote will not change the situation on the ground, yet the Palestinians still say it is significant.

Abbas has said UN recognition is not meant to replace negotiations with Israel, but to improve Palestinian leverage and secure the pre-1967 war frontiers as the baseline for future border talks — an idea Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlements

Abbas has said he will not negotiate as long as Israel keeps expanding settlements on war-won land.

- **West Bank.** Half a million Israelis now live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, blurring the 1967 lines.
- **Netanyahu.** Beyond a 10-month partial halt in 2009, Netanyahu has refused to freeze construction in settlements.

Unhappy with Harper

Palestinians hold pictures of Prime Minister Stephen Harper superimposed with a face of a dog during a protest in front of the Canadian representative offices in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Wednesday, following Harper's remarks about the Palestinian UN bid for an observer-state status. Canada affirmed its steadfast opposition to Thursday's vote at the United Nations to confer statehood on Palestine, saying it would not support any "shortcuts" to peace with Israel. MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strong ties

Gaza residents say thanks to Iran

Residents of the Gaza Strip on Wednesday plastered large billboards in key locations thanking Iran for its help during a recent eight-day battle against Israel.

The posters reflected the strong ties between Iran and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad militant groups in Gaza. Israel considers Iran to be its most dangerous enemy, citing Iran's support for the militants and its suspect nuclear program.

During the fighting, Gaza militant groups fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, including Iranian-made "Fajr" missiles reaching as far as Tel Aviv and the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Israel has long accused Iran of funnelling weapons into the Gaza Strip, but only recently have the militant groups openly acknowledged the origins of their arsenal.

The posters show the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, surrounded by Iranian and Palestinian flags, two hands in a handshake with the message, "Thanks and Gratitude to Iran."

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Medical woes. Women in agony ask Saskatchewan to pay for mesh removal

Marika English is going to California next week to get her mesh fully removed. It will set her back $30,000 unless the government agrees to pay.
ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN SASKATOON

One woman has not been able to sit down for seven months.

Another says she feels like she has steel wool inside her.

A third fears she might not have more children.

Ruth Olson, Marika English and Stephanie Brad all say they're in agony because of complications from a surgical mesh.

And they're begging the province of Saskatchewan to pay for the mesh's complete removal.

"We are angry, we are sick and we are in pain," English said Wednesday at the Saskatchewan legislature.

The women had surgical mesh inserted through their vaginas to help with urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse.

But the women say their meshes have failed and are poking into other organs.

They said the Saskatchewan health ministry has turned down their requests for funding out-of-country medical coverage.

The women said complete mesh removal is not available in Canada — that only partial removal is offered by a doctor in British Columbia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal race. Garneau the spaceman wants to send Harper into orbit

The latest contender for the helm of the federal Liberals hopes his astronaut credentials will give him a lift.

Marc Garneau repeatedly played up his resumé as Canada's first man in space as he officially launched his leadership campaign Wednesday.

The Montreal MP touted himself as the Liberals' best hope for defeating Prime Minister Stephen Harper, having gained the necessary experience and leadership skills during an impressive career before jumping into the political arena in 2008.

"I want to be the prime minister of Canada, I want to be the Liberal leader," Garneau told a news conference in Ottawa.

"I will talk about my strengths and my strengths are proven.

"There will be no modesty here. I'm going to speak specifically about what I've done in the navy, what I've done in the space program, including being the president of the Canadian Space Agency."

Garneau insisted he's not daunted by the prospect of going up against fellow Montreal MP Justin Trudeau, the presumed favourite.

"When I sent in my application (to become an astronaut), I was one of 4,000 people and I ended up No. 1," Garneau said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marc Garneau is well-regarded on Parliament Hill as a hard-working MP. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"He's a man of ideas and strength."

Justin Trudeau,
presumed Liberal frontrunner

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Assault charge

Professional MMA fighter charged

Shane Michael Wilson
VICTORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Victoria man with an extensive professional fighting resumé has been arrested on assault charges for the second time in as many years.

Shane Michael Wilson, 29, has been charged with assault causing bodily harm following an incident at a McDonald's restaurant Sunday morning.

Known in mixed-martial-arts circles as "The Warrior," Wilson is described by police as a "well-known criminal" with a history of violence.

The victim, a 22-year-old Saanich man, was taken to hospital and later released.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO VICTORIA

Firing back

Former Olympic CEO attacks abuse allegations

Former Vancouver Olympics CEO John Furlong says the reporter behind an article that accused him of abusing students 40 years ago while teaching in northern British Columbia wrote the story as part of a malicious campaign to discredit him.

Furlong, whose role at the top of the 2010 Olympic organizing committee saw him inducted as a member of the Order of Canada, filed a statement of claim this week alleging his reputation has been irreparably harmed by the Georgia Straight newspaper, reporter Laura Robinson, publisher Daniel McLeod and editor Charlie Smith.

The weekly newspaper published a story Sept. 27 that quoted eight former students who alleged Furlong was physically and verbally abusive while he was a volunteer teacher in northern B.C. in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Got a cold? Tell your friends on Facebook

Viral media.
New research shows social media could help prevent the spread of disease

Could a Facebook posting from just the right person save you from a nasty cold come wintertime? Can tweeting government officials or principals prevent the flu from spreading through schools or the community?

That's what researchers at Kansas State University in Manhattan, K.S., hope to find out as they examine the role of social media — with its instant and comprehensive messaging capabilities — and our health.

The team's research shows epidemics can be controlled if populations take immediate preventive behaviour.

Now, through interviews and information collected from college students — who say they get much of their information from Facebook — they're hearing people would be willing to get flu shots, wash their hands or sneeze into their elbow if alerted through social media, knowing they'd be helping reduce the spread of disease.

But researchers still need to determine what body would be best to send out alerts, warnings and accompanying precautions on social media.

"We're discussing ... whether it would be better to receive recommendations or advice from someone people know and trust personally … or an authority on the subject," says Dr. Caterina Scoglio, an associate professor at the university and one of the researchers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Human contact

One way to prevent disease is to avoid socialization.

- Students say they want to control the spread of disease but aren't ready to cut themselves off from family and friends.

Lindsay Lohan may want to tweet when she's sick, if only to keep paparazzi at bay. Researchers say people would be willing to take health precautions if they were alerted through social media. DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Ontario publisher charged with fake witchcraft healing

One wealthy warlock?
Police say he tricked a woman out of $14,000 to remove an evil curse

JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Toronto

Police charged a Mississauga, Ont., man with pretending to practise witchcraft Tuesday, a charge that's controversial in the community of practising pagans but is also laid surprisingly often in Ontario.

Police allege Gustavo Valencia Gomes, publisher of Spanish-language newspaper el Negocio Redondo, advertised his services as a healer and then convinced a woman that she and her family were cursed and that he could remove it for a price. She paid $14,000 before police arrested him, officers said.

It's a common scam, said Ariana L'Heureux, a self-described witch who works at The Occult Shop in Toronto. The shop offers tarot-card readings for a small fee.

The law separates true believers, like L'Heureux, from imposters who "pretend to be something they're not for monetary gain."

Brendan Myers, a pagan and a philosophy professor at the Cégep Heritage College, worries that the law could be used against law-abiding pagans. There are no equivalent laws for charlatans that abuse other faiths, he said.

On the other hand, he also worries the witchcraft charge could get fraudsters off the hook.

"What if someday a conman uses these precedents to say what he did was religion and therefore it should be protected?"

Accused

6

Number of Ontarians charged with pretending to practise witchcraft since 1999. Four were charged in the last four years.

The boss and the bean

Britain's Charles, Prince of Wales, left, meets entertainer Rowan Atkinson at the Prince's Trust Comedy Gala 2012 at the Royal Albert Hall in central London on Wednesday (with Joan Rivers in background.) DOMINIC LIPINSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fraud. Afghanistan's largest bank loses $861M in Ponzi scheme: Review

Hundreds of millions of dollars from Kabul Bank were spirited out of Afghanistan — some smuggled in airline food trays — according to an independent review released on Wednesday about a massive fraud that led to the collapse of the nation's largest financial institution.

The report, financed by international donors, offers new details about how the men at Kabul Bank got rich off $861 million in fraudulent loans in what the International Monetary Fund has called a Ponzi scheme that used customer deposits and operated under nascent banking oversight in the war-torn country.

Loans were made, but rarely repaid. Borrowers took out loans to pay back loans. Company documents and financial statements were fabricated. The bank's credit department used more than 100 corporate stamps for fake companies to make documents look authentic. The bank operated some of its branches without a permit.

"Every citizen in Afghanistan will bear the cost," the report said.

Drago Kos, chairman of the committee that wrote the report, speaks in Kabul on Wednesday. MUSADEQ SADEQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The report said $861 million, or 92 per cent of Kabul Bank's loan book, went to 19 individuals and companies. Among them are key bank shareholders, including Sherkhan Farnood, the former bank chairman and a world-class poker player, former CEO Khalilullah Ferozi and the brothers of President Hamid Karzai and first Vice-President Mohammad Qasim Fahim. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto man sentenced to death in Egypt over film

Trial in absentia. Canadian convicted of insulting Islam over alleged involvement with anti-Muslim film

A Canadian who was sentenced to death in absentia Wednesday in Cairo over an anti-Islam movie that caused deadly riots in parts of the Muslim world said he's terrified of being kidnapped and spirited to Egypt.

In an interview with The Canadian Press, Nader Fawzy denied any involvement in the Innocence of Muslims, saying the Egyptian government has long been out to get him because of his Coptic Christian activism.

"Of course I'm worried about this death penalty," said Fawzy, a jewelry store manager and president of an international Coptic rights organization. He came to Canada in 2002 from Sweden. He lost his Egyptian citizenship when he became a Swedish citizen in 1992, he said.

"Who will give me guarantees that the Egyptian government will not try to kidnap me to take me to Egypt?"

Full denial

"Now, as a Canadian, I'm convicted for a crime I didn't do."

Nader Fawzy, denying any involvement with the Innocence of Muslims

Fawzy, 53, of Toronto was one of seven Egyptian Coptic Christians convicted and sentenced to death Wednesday along with a Florida pastor for the low-budget movie.

Fawzy said he planned to file a lawsuit against the Egyptian government in Canada for what he said was a wrongful prosecution.

"Let them give me one (piece of evidence) that I had anything to do with that."

Egyptian authorities have had it in for him since 2007, when he published a book on anti-Coptic sentiment in Egypt called The Persecuted. He also filed a lawsuit against the Cairo government for riots in 2000 that left 23 Copts dead.

The court found all the accused guilty of harming national unity, insulting and publicly attacking Islam and spreading false information, the official Egyptian news agency said.

All of those sentenced live outside Egypt. Also convicted were Mark Basseley Youssef, the man behind the movie, and Florida pastor Terry Jones, who became well-known two years ago when he publicly burned copies of the Muslim holy book. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Resisting a return to absolute rule in Egypt

Egyptian protesters clash with security forces near Tahrir Square, in Cairo, Egypt, on Wednesday. In an escalation of the tug-of-war between Egypt's president and the powerful judiciary, judges in the country's top courts went on strike Wednesday to protest Mohammed Morsi's seizure of near absolute powers, while Islamists rushed to complete a new constitution—the issue at the heart of the dispute. KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Swedish company TOP-TOY's newly released gender-neutral catalogue. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toy maker goes gender-neutral

Guns and dolls.

Swedish company retooled after drawing criticism for gender roles in its catalogue

Dolls for Billy, toy guns for Sally? One of Sweden's largest toy chains has caused a stir by publishing a gender-neutral catalogue showing girls playing with toys typically perceived as those for boys and vice versa.

TOP-TOY released its gender-neutral Christmas catalogue this week showing a girl brandishing a toy gun and a boy playing with a doll, after the company was previously chastised for being too conservative in encouraging outdated gender roles in its marketing material.

"We want our catalogues to reflect the way boys and girls play in real life, and not present a stereotype image of them. If both girls and boys in Sweden like to play with a toy kitchen, then we want to mirror this pattern," said Thomas Meng, Retail Marketing Director for BR Toys and TOYS R US in the Nordic countries.

Quoted

"Who says you can't bring out the masculine side of a girl?"

Shamie Ramgoolam, co-owner of Silly Goose Kids in Toronto, responding to TOP-TOY's new marketing strategy

In 2008, the retailer was reprimanded by Swedish Advertising Ombudsman after customers complained about catalogues that featured girls dressed as princesses and boys dressed as superheroes. The company decided to try a more gender-neutral approach to the catalogues and receive training from the Ombudsman's office.

Shamie Ramgoolam, co-owner of the toy store Silly Goose Kids in Toronto, says she tries to run her store with the same gender-neutral philosophy.

"It's the way it should be," said Ramgoolam. "Kids have certain things they like and they will play with what they like," she said.

Earlier this year, Sweden introduced a new gender-neutral pronoun — 'hen' — to replace he and she in its National Encyclopedia.

And since 2008, the government has spent millions on promoting gender equality in school, including introduction of laws and regulations that ensure that teachers are actively working to reverse gender stereotypes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Muskrat Falls

Project may pose mercury concerns

The proposed Muskrat Falls hydro project in Labrador will have major effects downstream, including potential health problems from mercury contamination that will infringe Inuit rights, says the Nunatsiavut government. It cites preliminary research indicating mercury from the Churchill River is already flowing into Lake Melville, a key food source. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Livestock products

Ridley buys Stockade Brands

Ridley Inc. has acquired Kansas-based Stockade Brands Inc., a private manufacturer of nutritional supplements for livestock. Financial terms of the deal weren't disclosed in the announcement Wednesday.

Ridley makes supplements and feed products for animals at facilities in Minnesota, South Dakota, Texas, Alabama, Kentucky and California. It will add Stockade's production plant in Pittsburg, Kan.

"Acquisition of the Stockade facility and product family provides additional depth to Ridley's product line-up for beef cattle, dairy, goats, wildlife and equine, and gains access to new marketing channels in the region," said Bob Frost, executive vice president of Ridley. "We plan to invest new capital in the Pittsburg facility that will extend its production capacity and operating efficiency to handle additional Ridley products." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-corruption squad nabs former SNC-Lavalin CEO

Fraud charges. Arrest relates to Montreal superhospital contract

Former SNC-Lavalin CEO Pierre Duhaime THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The former head of Canada's biggest engineering firm, who once mused that Quebec was taking sufficient measures to fight corruption in the construction industry, was arrested Wednesday by the squad at the centre of those efforts.

Pierre Duhaime, the former chief executive of SNC-Lavalin, was taken from his home by police in connection with alleged fraud involving one of Montreal's huge new superhospitals.

The arrest warrant alleges that Duhaime and Riasdh Ben Aissa, another former top executive, also committed conspiracy to commit fraud and uttered false documents in connection with a contract pertaining to the multibillion-dollar McGill University Health Centre. The infractions are alleged to have taken place between April 30, 2009, and Aug. 31, 2011.

Duhaime was released from custody late Wednesday and is expected to appear in court at a later date after being questioned by provincial anti-corruption-squad investigators.

He walked out from provincial police headquarters around 7:45 p.m., brushing past a number of journalists, covering his face with his coat and an arm as he approached an awaiting BMW. He sat in the back seat with his head down as the car pulled away.

Meanwhile, squad chief Robert Lafreniere said "international proceedings" have been initiated against Ben Aissa, who is currently detained in Switzerland.

Ben Aissa, SNC's former head of construction, is accused of fraud, money laundering and corrupting a public official tied to his dealings in North Africa.

Duhaime received a $5-million payout after he stepped down as SNC-Lavalin's CEO last March. He was "relieved" of his duties after an independent review conducted by the company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec construction inquiry

- A senator appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he could not possibly have known that some of his business contacts would someday be accused of having criminal Mafia links. Sen. Leo Housakos reacted Wednesday to details emerging from Quebec's construction inquiry, expressing frustration over what he called a smear-by-association campaign and a "witch-hunt."
- Housakos was named at the inquiry for attending meetings that are being scrutinized at the high-profile probe. The inquiry heard he met with two men who now face numerous criminal charges in an unrelated affair.

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GOOD NEWS TODAY
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(Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for the Lord is close beside me. Psalm 23:4)
GOODNEWSTODAY.CA

Gulf oil spill. BP cut out of new U.S. federal contracts

The Obama administration put a temporary stop to new federal contracts with British oil company BP on Wednesday, citing the company's "lack of business integrity" and criminal proceedings stemming from the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010.

The action by the Environmental Protection Administration won't affect current contracts, but prevents BP and its affiliates from new government contracts "until the company can provide sufficient evidence to EPA demonstrating that it meets federal business standards," the agency said.

"EPA is taking this action due to BP's lack of business integrity as demonstrated by the company's conduct with regard to the Deepwater Horizon blowout, explosion, oil spill, and response," the agency said in a statement. In London, BP said it expected to make a statement later Wednesday.

The suspension came the same day two BP rig supervisors and a former executive pleaded not guilty to criminal charges stemming from the explosion and the company's response to the resulting oil spill. The three men are charged with manslaughter in the deaths of 11 rig workers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

$4.5B

BP announced earlier in November that it will plead guilty to manslaughter, obstruction of Congress and other charges and pay a record $4.5 billion US in penalties to resolve a Justice Department probe.

Central-banking brouhaha. British press gleefully puts Carneys through wringer

Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney's wife is an eco-warrior with left-wing views? Who knew?

Welcome to the British press! London's leading newspapers have been having a field day putting Carney under the microscope, examining everything from his monetary policies to his personal life, since the stunning news a Canadian would be taking over as head of the Bank of England.

Among the stories published in The Telegraph Tuesday was "Ten facts about Diana Carney, wife of the new Bank of England Governor Mark Carney." It revealed, among other things, that she runs a website, called ecoproductsthatwork.com, where she provides tips on gardening pots made from fired cow dung and where to buy $10 vegan shoes.

On a more serious note, the story also noted the British-born mother of four girls was educated at Oxford and works as vice-president, research, at Canada 2020, an independent, progressive think-tank based in Ottawa.

Another Telegraph column, by Sarah Rainey, goes a step further and attempts to explain Canada to the British, pointing out we're known for more than Mounties and maple syrup and that Carney is not the country's only bright light.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Attack ads. Don't get 'scroogled,' Microsoft warns holiday shoppers

Microsoft is trying to skewer Google as a lousy holiday shopping guide in its latest attempt to divert more traffic to its Bing search engine.

The attack started Wednesday with a marketing campaign focused on a recent change in how Google runs the part of its search engine devoted to shopping results. The revisions require merchants to pay Google to have their products listed in the shopping section.

In its new ads, Microsoft Corp. contends the new approach betrays Google Inc.'s longstanding commitment to provide the most trustworthy results on the web, even if it means forgoing revenue. To punctuate its point, Microsoft is warning consumers that they risk getting "scroogled" if they rely on Google's shopping search service.

The message will be highlighted in TV commercials that will run on NBC and CNN and newspaper ads in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post. The blitz also will appear on billboards and online, anchored by a new site, Scroogled.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ikea fans brave the cold

An estimated 2,000 people waited Wednesday morning to get a glimpse of Winnipeg's new Ikea store, which opened at 9 a.m. Roughly 800 of those dedicated shoppers lined up starting at midnight to be among the first through the doors. The weather got so chilly that the retailer let people wait in the warehouse overnight, but then asked them to step outside again around 7 a.m. so it could finish setting up.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Osisko Mining Corp.

Police, officials raid Malartic gold mine in Quebec

Police participated in a raid on a major gold mine in Quebec, seizing documents related to its drilling and blasting practices Wednesday.

Provincial police moved in to grab documents at the Canadian Malartic mine, which belongs to Montreal-based Osisko Mining Corp. They were joining representatives of the provincial environment ministry.

A spokeswoman for Environment Minister Daniel Breton said the raid was prompted by allegations that the company broke the conditions of the deal that allowed it to exploit the mine. She said officials demanded documents linked to drilling and blasting from April 2011 to October 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Telecom

Legal dispute between Nokia, RIM widens

Research In Motion was buffeted Wednesday by news that Nokia Corp. has asked courts in several countries to uphold a Swedish arbitrator's ruling that could prevent RIM from using certain patented wireless technology.

The arbitrator ruled RIM is in breach of the companies' agreement and should be blocked from making or selling products with WiFi communications unless it pays royalties to Nokia for certain technology rights.

"In order to enforce the tribunal's ruling, we have now filed actions in the U.S., U.K. and Canada with the aim of ending RIM's breach of contract," Nokia spokesman Mark Durrant said in statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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STRIKE THE SHOPPERS AND JOIN THE CHORUS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Oh, joy! It's once again that magical time of year when we get into the "spirit" of Christmas — so called because Christmas, as it was once understood, is dead by the end of November, either killed by the Gods of Consumerism or trampled to death at a shopping mall by people clambering for this year's must-have present: Restraining Order Elmo. Fa la la la la la la la la.

It all began last week, with people in their stretchiest shopping pants crawling all over each other during Grey Thursday, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Paisley Sunday, Cyber Monday, The Tantalizing Tremendous and Transcendent Tues-tacular, and Wednesday.

Wednesday!

The Black Friday weekend has become the unofficial "starting gun" of the Christmas shopping season, though that bang you heard was probably just a Walmart greeter firing a warning shot into the air. Giving like Santa and saving like Scrooge might be the goal, but a lot of people just trample like nine angry reindeer.

When I was doing research for this column, I tried to type Christmas-shopping statistics into Google, but it auto-filled to Christmas-shopping safety tips.

This made perfect sense.

Watching the Black Friday swarm move through a mall like locusts — leaving behind employees wearing nothing but their smiley-face pins — is fascinating but frightening.

It occurs to me how fitting it is that the 1978 horror allegory Dawn of the Dead was a film about a shopping mall full of flesh-eating zombies that shuffled slowly in a slack-jawed, aimless stupor but that the more recent remake had fast zombies bounding through the mall in a quick, deadly crush. While the first film was clearly meant to mock the day's spirit of consumerism, I think the echo of fast, awful crowds in the second film was just good luck. Living death imitates art.

And all the more fitting since Christmas advertising now starts on Halloween.

The festivities used to kick into gear after Remembrance Day, but I suspect in the future we'll just tell kids the story of how The Veterans Saved Christmas while we enjoy our seasonal Peppermint poppy mochas.

The worst part of all for me is that, despite my non-believer status, I really like Christmas. I like the lights and the outdoor markets and most of the music, and so it kills me a little to see people getting all mobby over stuff they'll forget about by Jan. 3.

The more violent aspects seem solely American so far, but we might not be far behind. There were zombies lined up outside Canadian malls at 6 a.m. on Black Friday, because we saw the old ladies hurting each other on the TV and naturally thought, We want some of that.

In the spirit of Christmas giving, might I suggest that we return the favour by giving Americans our Boxing Day sales? Given their track record, they'll enjoy another shopping day while making the name more apt than ever.

Deck your fellow patrons

The more violent aspects seem solely American so far, but we might not be far behind. There were zombies lined up outside Canadian malls at 6 a.m. on Black Friday, because we saw the old ladies hurting each other on the TV and naturally thought, We want some of that.

Customers wait in line to enter Best Buy on Black Friday in Fort Worth, Texas. According to recent data, Black Friday is expected to attract zombies to Canadian malls by 2014. TOM PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Still trying to impress Olive Oyl

STEPHAN SAVOIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ripped

Hey, Popeye, where's your pipe?

Don't tell Popeye. It turns out you don't need to eat your spinach to get the world's biggest arms. Bodybuilder Moustafa Ismail insists they are all-natural, the result of a punishing workout regimen he started after a guest at his uncle's wedding in his native Egypt mocked his overweight frame.

"They call me Popeye, the Egyptian Popeye," Ismail, 24, said while working out in the Boston suburb of Milford. But unlike the cartoon character, "I like chicken, beef — anything but spinach."

It's not easy having the world's biggest arms.

Skeptics say there must also be steroids or some other artificial means behind Ismail's beyond-bulging biceps and triceps, and Guinness World Records is now waffling on whether to recognize him.

Controversy ensued when Guinness decided to recognize him as having the largest upper-arm muscles. In response to critics, they are now conducting research with medical specialists and reviewing Ismail's category.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big guns

- Ismail started building his muscles in his Egyptian hometown of Alexandria before moving to the United States in 2007 and settling in Franklin, southwest of Boston.
- To pay for his gym membership and daily dietary requirements, he worked two jobs as a gas-station attendant, but gave up one after his wife began to complain that he was pushing himself too hard.

No sweat

31 inches

Ismail eats three kilograms of protein and four kilograms of carbohydrates, and drinks 11 litres of water each day to help maintain upper arms that measure 31 inches around — as big as a small man's waist. Generous amounts of poultry, seafood and shakes provide the protein he needs to fuel daily two-hour workouts in which he lifts as much as 600 pounds.

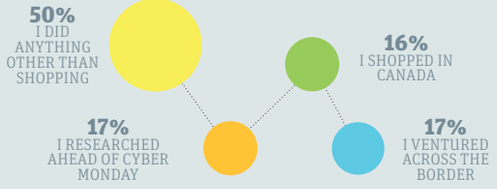
Online

Watch the video at metronews.ca

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What did you do on Black Friday?



Twitter

@NEWSBOYCALLSEN: Looking for a gym in Mackenzie Towne. It feels like I'm basically looking for someone to rip me off. #yyc

@saradhruvmom: To the #idiot in the black truck who was tailgating me and honking at me #facepalm #yyc #crowchild .. Hope u get a speeding ticket.

@espyexperience: I swear that place Little Lebanon has some homing device on my car, I cannot drive near there without buying zataar and cheese!! #yyc

@AccousticVision: Oh, you hate drama? Please continue to dramatically complain about it. #yyc

@innfromthecold: 28 families stayed with us last night in #yyc

metro

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Dudes just wanna have fun

Roaming Storms. Despite virtuosity, bandmates say they are just in it for kicks and booze

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

Calgary's Roaming Storms celebrate the release of their debut CD at Broken City on Friday. LISA WILTON/METRO

Having fun is key for members of Calgary band, Roaming Storms.

Though the quartet has been together less than a year, the musicians have a long history of sharing the stage together.

Singer Bil Hetherington and bass player Steve Elaschuk played in garage rock act The Neckers, drummer Lou Lowry has kept the beat for several local bands and guitarist-singer Dan Vacon also fronts popular indie groups The Dudes and Dojo Workhorse.

"I love Bil's songs and I like hanging out with these jerks," says Vacon.

"I never got to play with Steve and Lou before. It's fun and I'm always up for having more fun. It's not like I get to the end of the week and go, 'Oh, I've had enough fun.'"

Hetherington is equally excited about finally playing in a band with Vacon.

"I fell in love with my wife to Dudes songs at The Night Gallery back in the day," he says.

"And now that we're singing together, it's great."

Sitting in the living room of Elaschuk's North West home following the band's weekly rehearsal, Vacon, Elaschuk and Hetherington spend most of the interview trying to crack each other up.

When asked about the short recording process of Roaming Storms' debut CD, Hetherington says he's attempted "That Fleetwood Mac thing before, spending months and hundreds of thousands of dollars on a record."

"And dating each other," chimes in Vacon to the amusement of his bandmates. "It's been played out, man."

The conversation gets slightly more serious — but only slightly — when the topic turns to what makes the band work.

"Not to sound egotistical, but everyone's a decent player," explains Elaschuk.

"So it comes together a lot quicker when you're not fighting with that one guy who doesn't know what he's doing."

The veteran musicians say they would like to tour the new self-titled record, but are keeping their expectations low.

"You can't fail when you have no goals," says Vacon, resulting in another burst of laughter from his bandmates.

"You can only have handsome little surprises. 'Oh, you like us? Cool. We didn't even care.' We just want to play together with our friends and have some drinks."

More info

- Roaming Storms CD release takes place Friday at Broken City with guests Night Committee and Napalmpom.
- The self-titled album will be on sale for $10 at the show.
- According to singer Bil Hetherington, the name Roaming Storms comes from The Dudes' guitarist Bob Quashnick, who tried to convince the band that saying, 'Next up, the Roaming Storms' in a British accent would sound like, 'Next up, the Rolling Stones.' It doesn't.

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Ray Liotta stars in the latest mobster drama Killing Them Softly. HANDOUT

Ray Liotta treads softly in his latest mob role

New movie. Best known for his bad guy roles, Liotta flips the script in Killing Them Softly as he becomes a good guy mobster

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Ray Liotta knows how to give a hell of a fake beating. He's also good at taking one, as he does in his latest film — mobster drama Killing Them Softly. Though fans are still asking him to say lines from his iconic role in 1994's Goodfellas, the New Jersey native doesn't mind slipping back into the role of a gangster for Andrew Dominik's new film, especially since, as he says, he's playing a good gangster this time around.

In this film, the mob underworld serves as a microcosm for the country as a whole. So many people felt victimized by the 2008 financial crisis, which is when this film is set. The mobsters who get ripped off in the card game robberies represent the general public. What do you think is the allegorical message of all of that?
Just that everybody needs money. Everybody got hit. I'm not sure, but I guess it happens to all walks of life. You don't think of it as maybe hurting people who do illegal things, but it stands to reason (the effect of the crisis), I guess, would be across the board — good guys and bad guys.

Quoted

"Everybody got hit. I'm not sure, but I guess it happens to all walks of life. You don't think of it as maybe hurting people who do illegal things, but it stands to reason (the effect of the crisis), I guess, would be across the board."
Ray Liotta
Talking about the 2008 financial crisis.

It's refreshing how the film places the mob in the context of the crisis. Is that one of the things that attracted you to this role?
That was in the book … But that's not why I did it. I did it more just because it was a really interesting story and it was nice to play somebody who was the victim as opposed to the aggressor. It was different in terms of the bad guys that I've played.

What was the strangest mob story you've been asked to do?
I get to play cops — bad cops, some bad guys. I've only played two guys who were in the mob, Goodfellas and then I've got one coming out, Ice Man, which is a really good movie. I was asked to do The Sopranos, but it just wasn't the right time to do it. In the beginning of my career, I handled it very delicately in terms of limiting the bad guys. The irony of it all is I've never been in a fight in my whole life, yet I play and they ask me to do these kinds of guys.

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Hobbit fans revelling in New Zealand premiere of Jackson's latest production

Coming to theatres.
Fans and actors laud most recent effort from Jackson, who credits unusual shooting style for success

Director Peter Jackson poses with his daughter Katie on the red carpet at the premiere of his new film The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, in New Zealand. ROSS SETFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wearing elf ears and wizard hats, sitting atop their dad's shoulders or peering from balconies, tens of thousands of New Zealanders watched their favourite Hobbit actors walk the red carpet Wednesday at the film trilogy's hometown premiere.

An Air New Zealand plane freshly painted with Hobbit characters flew low over Wellington's Embassy Theatre, eliciting roars of approval from the crowd.

Sam Rashidmardani, 12, said he came to see Gollum actor Andy Serkis walk the red carpet — and he wasn't disappointed.

"It was amazing," Rashidmardani said of the evening, adding his Gollum impression: "My precious."

British actor Martin Freeman, who brings comedic timing to the lead role of Bilbo Baggins, said he thought director Peter Jackson had done a fantastic job on The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.

"He's done it again," Freeman said in an interview on the red carpet.

Movie magic

"I really think 48 frames is pretty terrific and I'm looking forward to seeing the reaction. It's been talked about for so long, but finally the film is being released and people can decide for themselves."

Peter Jackson
Director of The Hobbit.

"If it's possible, it's probably even better than The Lord of the Rings. I think he's surpassed it."

While it is unusual for a city so far from Hollywood to host the premiere of a hoped-for blockbuster, Jackson's filming of his lauded LOTR trilogy and now The Hobbit in New Zealand has helped create a film industry here. The film will open in theatres around the world next month.

One of the talking points of the film is the choice by Jackson to shoot it using 48 frames per second instead of the traditional 24 in hopes of improving the picture quality.

Some say the images come out too clear and look so realistic that they take away from the magic of the film medium. Jackson likens it to advancing from vinyl records to CDs.

"I really think 48 frames is pretty terrific and I'm looking forward to seeing the reaction," Jackson said on the red carpet. "It's been talked about for so long, but finally the film is being released and people can decide for themselves."

Jackson said it was strange working on the project so intimately for two years and then having it suddenly taken away as the world got to see the movie.

"It spins your head a little bit," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Angus T. Jones ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Two and a Half Men actor Angus T. Jones apologizes over 'filth' remark

Two and a Half Men star Angus T. Jones is doing damage control following his remarks during an interview with a Christian website in which he called the hit show "filth" and urged fans not to watch it. Jones released a statement this week aiming to smooth things over with his bosses and co-workers — though he pointedly didn't take back what he said. "I apologize if my remarks reflect me showing indifference to and disrespect of my colleagues and a lack of appreciation of the extraordinary opportunity of which I have been blessed," Jones' statement reads. "I never intended that."

Twitter

@jtimberlake
Memphis ... I love you. Always good to come home. Thanksgiving has got to be the best holiday. Also, I'm a pig.

@pattyduke_id
Have any of you heard or seen an article on twitter going to start charging a fee. Let me know, got a tweet saying it, but might be hacker

@JonahHill
Now I'm watching Black Swan and this movie is crazy and amazing

@JimCarrey
Archeologists are now saying that the visit of the 3 Magi to baby Jesus did happen but that the myrrh may have been a regift!

The Word

That was quick! Jessica Simpson is pregnant again

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Whoa. Here's some news I didn't see coming: Jessica Simpson is pregnant, again.

Seven months after giving birth to daughter Maxwell, Jessica Simpson is reportedly already expecting another child, according to Us Weekly. "It definitely wasn't planned," a source says. "But yes, Jessica is pregnant again." This would be the second baby for Simpson and fiancé Eric Johnson. A rep for Simpson has yet to comment.

Oh man, you guys. This brings up so many questions, mainly: What was she thinking? But also: Is she taking cues from notorious quick-turnaround-breeder Tori Spelling? (Ed note: Never, ever take life tips from Tori Spelling.) What will happen to her multimillion dollar campaign with Weight Watchers? Because you know girlfriend isn't going to slim down anytime soon. And does this mean we're all going to be subjected to photos of her being gigantic yet again? As someone who has a seven-month-old at home, I'm down with pregnant ladies and have nothing but respect for them, but my Us Weekly just finally stopped running photos of her waddling around L.A. Hey, paparazzi — I think we (and probably Jessica Simpson) could use a little break. Let's let her gestate in peace this go round, OK?

Gabriel Aubry

Gabriel Aubry fails to have restraining order from Halle Berry lifted

Gabriel Aubry's efforts to have the restraining order against him lifted following a Thanksgiving brawl with ex-girlfriend Halle Berry's fiancé, Olivier Martinez, have failed, with a judge denying his request to dismiss the ban, according to TMZ. The order, which requires Aubry to stay at least 100 yards away from Martinez, Berry and the four-year-old daughter Aubry shares with Berry, Nahla, is set to expire today due to a clerical error, though Berry is expected to file a request to extend the ban.

Dolly Parton

Parton rubbishes gay best friend rumours

Despite being married to Carl Dean for 46 years, Dolly Parton has been dogged by rumours romantically linking her to best friend Judy Ogly for years. "Judy and I have been best friends since we were like in the third and fourth grade," Parton says in an interview with ABC's Nightline. "We still just have a great friendship and relationship and I love her as much as I love anybody in the whole world, but we're not romantically involved." On the plus side, the persistent rumours did give Parton something she could bond over with Oprah Winfrey: "Like Gayle (King), her friend, Judy, my friend, they just think that you just can't be that close to somebody," Parton says.

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KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

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Natalie Massenet GETTY

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satin bomber jacket, $595, netaporter.com

Suno
$696, sunony.com

Topshop
Aztec print bomber, $130, topshop.com

Zara
jacket, $349, zara.com

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@Jeanne_Beker: At the CTV Bellmedia Queen St. W. bldg+something big, new+exciting is brewing! Our release goes out at noon. Stay tuned!!

@Jeanne_Beker: The word is out: We"re launching theLoop.ca by Sympatico Dec. 13th

@Jeanne_Beker: TheLoop.ca will be a cutting edge lifestyle destination with plenty of style to keep you satiated!

@Jeanne_Beker: With the inspiring +lovely Senator Linda Frum. Just interviewed her at the Harold Green Theatre.

@Jeanne_Beker: Just 2 of the many FANTABULOUS prs of shoes that the divine @ConradNadeau has brought for our shoot.

@Jeanne_Beker: Bekky @qualityslippers graciously agrees to don @EDITbyJeanneB Spring 2013 for a quick shot!

@Jeanne_Beker: So many shots to choose from @EDITbyJeanneB for spring! Love @Mackenzie_ photo too. :)

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Freya Bernales
Architectural draftsperson
Age: 23

What she's wearing
Zara jacket, Tiffany necklace, Forever 21 shirt, H&M jeans, Lola Shoetique shoes, Marc Jacobs bag, Ray Ban glasses

Her inspiration
"I try to avoid trends in favour of more classic looks — things I can mix and match easily."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: TIFFANY TRINIDAD, TIFFANYTRINIDAD.COM

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Buying your first home: Time to think about the next milestone

Buying your first home doesn't have to be scary. ISTOCK IMAGES

Are you a property virgin? Your real estate goals could be closer than you think

EMMA GODMERE
life@metronews.ca

Owning your first home is a major milestone. Buying property is likely one of the first significant investments you'll ever make — and it's an investment that you get to enjoy while it appreciates.

For young people in particular, the idea of getting a mortgage can feel like an insurmountable obstacle amid the reality of student and consumer debt, but your real estate goals don't have to be as far away as you think.

"You can never start too early," says Mark Salerno, corporate representative with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "If you start early enough, you're going to know the degree of challenge that you're going to have."

Salerno suggests first meeting with your bank to assess what kind of mortgage you might qualify for. Some hopeful homeowners may need to address debt and income concerns before taking the plunge, but banks and credit counselling agencies can help you become a better mortgage candidate.

If you're given the green light, the next task is finding a realtor.

Realtors will be able to shed light on market conditions, trends and prices, and help you comb through real estate listings.

A good place to start is with the Canadian Real Estate Association, which can link you to a realtor in your area. Realtors can also connect you to other important individuals like home inspectors and help negotiate a deal when you're ready to buy.

Some financial analysts may suggest renting a home is a better long-term approach, but while Salerno agrees it can be the more affordable option, he emphasizes the benefits of investing in your own piece of real estate are worth the purchase.

"The market, on average, over time appreciates and you then have a means to build equity in your home," he says. "If you're in a renting situation, you're paying a mortgage — but it's your landlord's mortgage."

Start sharing

This is the fourth in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

How did you find your first apartment? Any tips you'd like to share? Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

Three things to consider when looking for a new home

- Do you want a new home or a resale home? New homes will offer more up-to-date features, but can incur extra costs like GST or HST, for which there's no rebate if the house is more than $450,000. Resale homes may need renovations, but are most likely surrounded by established neighbourhoods.
- Is the neighbourhood sustainable? A sustainable neighbourhood ideally offers affordable homes, access to public transit, and proximity to schools, shops and work. Residents in sustainable neighbourhoods should also be able to choose healthier transportation options, like walking and cycling.
- How much space do you need when it comes to bedrooms, bathrooms, storage, and outdoor areas? The CMHC recommends buying a home that meets most of your projected needs for the next five to 10 years.

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#1307	2 Bedrooms - Penthouse!	$387,900	$365,900	5%
#911	2 Bedrooms	$286,900	SOLD	5%
#910	2 Bedrooms	$271,900	SOLD	5%
#805	2 Bedrooms	$294,900	$263,900	5%
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Everlasting beauties: Choosing an artificial Christmas tree

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Choosing an artificial Christmas tree for your home can be an easy alternative to the delivery, set-up, care and messy removal involved in getting a real one. They're also fireproof, which makes them a favourite for apartment and condo dwellers who may not be able to have the real thing.

Artificial trees now come with long-lasting lights, realistic branches and designer touches like snow, ice crystals and pine cones.

Price

Artificial Christmas trees cost $79 to $1,200 depending on height, the number of lights, amount of branches and the quality of construction. On average, a good tree will costs $30 to $50 for each linear foot of the tree's height.

Size

Match the size of a tree to your ceiling's height and reduce the size by six inches.

For example, if you have an eight-foot ceiling, choose a tree that is 7 1/2 feet in height. In rooms with exceptionally high ceilings, choose a tree that is at least two-thirds of the ceiling's height. Anything shorter will look dwarfed in the room.

Also consider the diameter at the bottom of the tree. This will determine how much floor space you will be taking up once the tree is assembled.

If space is at a premium, then consider a slim tree where the diameter of the base is less than four feet.

Winner of the most realistic-looking artificial tree is the 7 1/2 inch Snowy Fir Tree from The Martha Stewart Collection. $279, homedepot.ca.

Lights

A quality tree will have 75 to 100 lights for each foot of the tree's height.

Look for features like floor step pedals to make turning the lights on and off easier and a continuous light source, meaning if one bulb burns out or is removed, the other lights will continue to work. Most artificial trees come pre-lit with clear/warm white lights.

If you want trendy coloured lights instead, simply add them to the tree and don't plug in the clear prewired ones. A great way to change the look of your tree from year to year is with the investment of some new coloured lights.

Branches/tips

The more branches and tips on the tree, the fuller it will look and the more room you'll have to hang decorations.

Look for exceptional details like pine cones, a variety of baby-looking branch tips/needles, spacing between the branch layers of less than eight to 10 inches. This will give the tree a full, realistic look.

You can also wire on real pine cones and add fresh greenery to the tree for a lush look.

In extra tall spaces, the tree must reach at least half of the ceiling's height. Inset: A quality everlasting tree will have details like a variety of greens, pinecones, many tips and will be pre-lit for convenience. PHOTOS SUPPLIED

MARKET CONTINUES TO SIMMER

If you live anywhere else, you would say Calgary's real estate market is smoking hot. After all, the city's housing market is tops in Canada for sales growth, recording double-digit increases this October compared to the same time a year ago. Hot.

But if you do live in Calgary, you don't see the numbers quite the same way — things aren't overheating, city housing experts say, they're just returning to more stable, long-term trend levels and certainly not anything like the prices seen since before the last recession.

"We're not booming — not reaching the peak levels seen in 2007," says Ann Marie Lurie, chief economist with the Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB). "The market is just coming back to normal. Our city's economy is so tied to the employment market. We're just now recovering from job losses in 2009 and 2010."

As net migration is a key component of strong employment growth and housing demand, Calgary is sitting pretty. New resident numbers are expected to balloon to 20,000 this year — so with a strong labour market and low unemployment rate, Calgary's forecast is nothing but positive.

"People come here for jobs in the energy sector, and that spurs activity in other areas," Lurie says. "The influx of people to Calgary will create strong market demand for rental housing and home ownership." She also points to a reduced office vacancy now at less than two per cent, and opportunity to build more.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Lurie says another factor affecting the market involves concerns about the energy sector. While oil is doing well and pipeline expansion is being monitored, natural gas isn't doing well. "There is risk in our market, but it's fairly balanced right now," she says.

While the single-family home market has tightened up in the city centre, demand is especially high in areas just outside Calgary. The CREB reports exceptional activity in smaller centres like Airdrie and Okotoks, with better selection and pricing than within city borders. And the tighter market in the city may account for the condo market picking up, now at prices just 13 per cent off peak.

A single-family home in Calgary now averages $431,558 — that's up nearly four per cent from a year ago. Yet, new listings are down nearly 11 per cent, and still take an average of 49 days to sell.

Neither a buyer nore a or seller's market, analysts say the city has stepped off the roller-coaster of the last couple of years to more solid ground.

– Lucy Haines

THINKING OUTSIDE THE (CARDBOARD) BOX

WITH ECOBOX

Moving has often meant hauling cardboard boxes that usually fall apart or clutter up the garage afterwards — but no more.

Ecobox is Calgary's source for plastic moving boxes — sturdy medium and large flap-top boxes (think a more durable Rubbermaid container) that hold up to 34 kilograms (75 pounds) of stuff — household items and office supplies, books, binders, CDs and DVDs — and the convenience of free delivery and pick-up of boxes.

The moving industry is a competitive field, and Ecobox owner Michael Pauls agrees Calgary is a great city for his fledgling business. Here, there is always someone moving from home to home or even floor to floor within an office building.

Pauls directs customers to ecobox.ca, where they can calculate how many boxes they will need for a move. For a typical two-week rental (one week to pack and move, one week to unpack) packages range from a $79 eco-express mix of medium and large containers, to more than $400 for a large family with plenty of stuff to move. Boxes are two and four cubic feet, are stackable and, best of all, are taken away so there isn't any moving clutter left behind.

ECOBOX PHOTO

Bookings can be made up to a week before a move, for rental periods as short as a few days or longer than the two-week average. "But people like the two-week period," he says. "It forces them to get unpacked and organized."

Pauls anticipates a busy spring moving season for Ecobox and his painting company, Lucid Painting. See the company's presence on Facebook and Twitter to take advantage of cost-saving promotions.

AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE FOR WINDOWS

ALL WEATHER WINDOWS OFFERS QUALITY PRODUCTS

As anyone who has shopped for windows and doors knows, it's an important and not inexpensive investment — integral to the value, aesthetics and energy-efficiency of a house.

All Weather Windows is a top player in the industry, offering quality, energy-efficient products to consumers at competitive prices. In Alberta, All Weather Windows Renovations operates in Edmonton and Calgary, providing product sales and installation services in one convenient package.

"We pride ourselves on our customer service. We do a free consultation, take measurements and do an on-the-spot quote," says Fay Poholko, marketing consultant for All Weather Windows.

Convenient, yes. And what about the product?

All Weather Windows is an award winner, picking up consumer choice and industry nods as an ambassador of the Energy Star mark. With windows and doors a key source of heat loss in a home, it makes financial sense to talk energy efficiency.

COMSTOCK/THINKSTOCK

The Energy Star mark is an easy identifier on windows and sliding glass doors, and for combination windows, All Weather Windows' exclusive technology — V-weld — takes away the need for gaskets or silicone to seal windows. The technology also eliminates air and water leaks.

From awning to bay style, casement, double hung, fixed sash and gliders, the array of window choices is matched by a variety of doors: French sliding, entry and garden types. Consultants walk buyers through the choices — PVC frames are standard, but there's also wood frame cladded aluminum, or PVC aluminum cladded frames, both of which allow attractive colour choices and the efficiency of aluminum on the home exterior.

AWARD WINNER

All Weather Windows is Canada's largest privately-owned window and door manufacturer, with nine branches nationwide. Founded in Alberta more than 30 years ago, the company has two leading-edge manufacturing plants in Edmonton and Mississauga, producing a range of award-winning windows and doors for homeowners, retailers, builders and contractors.

According to Poholko, now is an ideal time of year to replace windows and doors. Certified installers can work in –20 C weather, and thanks to advance prep work, the window is out of the frame for only a very short time. All Weather Windows is offering its best prices of the year right now, with zero per cent financing or up to $1,500 in rebates.

"Our advantage is that we are the manufacturer and installer," Poholko says. "We're the one place to go for pricing, installation, warranty — it's all turn-key. Customers tell us they really appreciate that."

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AN ADDRESS FOR ACTIVE PEOPLE

NEW BRIGHTON: A PLACE FOR PEOPLE ON THE GO

CONTRIBUTED

Some 20,000 people are said to be migrating to the Calgary area this year — families, singles and couples — all with need for a home. And Brookfield Residential has just the place for them.

New Brighton in southeast Calgary offers townhouses, starter houses and move-up homes to those looking for an active lifestyle — that's active with a capital "A."

New Brighton boasts a 20-acre central park and 12-acre pond with scenic views and abundant opportunity to ride a bike, walk the dog or toss a Frisbee.

The showpiece of the community is The New Brighton Club, complete with a 6,500-square-foot centre, tennis, basketball courts and water park. In the winter, residents can enjoy a hockey rink, pleasure skating and a fire pit.

But the area also suits those looking for city conveniences, as plenty of restaurants, coffee shops and grocery stores run along 130 Avenue and McKenzie Towne's High Street. The tree-lined boulevard, New Brighton Drive, loops through the entire community, creating easy access to all points.

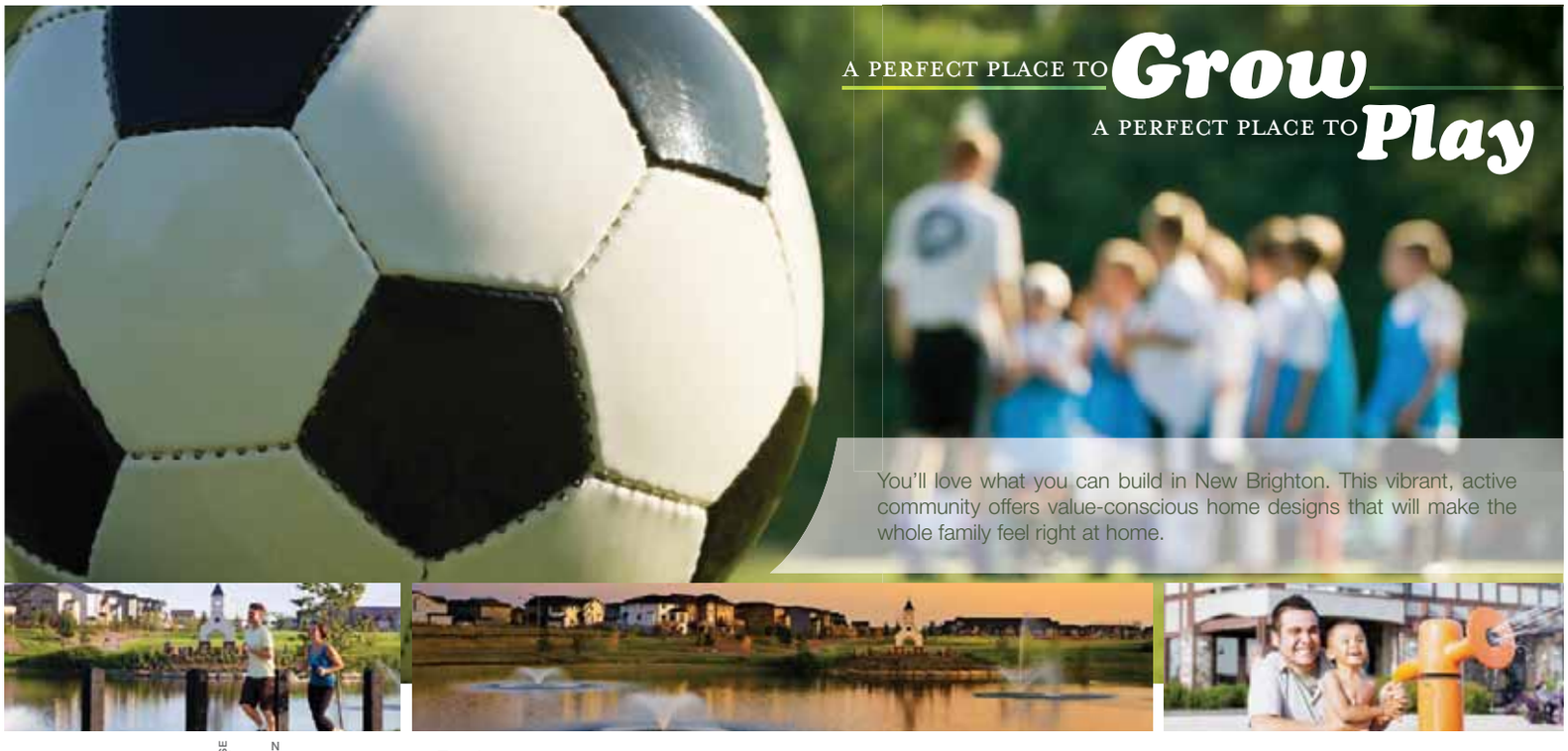
And access is just as easy to downtown or the airport with New Brighton's location in the city's southeast. Schools and the new Calgary South Health Campus in Seton are likewise within close reach.

Many builders are creating homes in New Brighton, including Trico, Shane, Jayman, Morrison, and Cedarglen. When completed, the 610-acre community will be home to more than 10,000 people in 3,700 homes.

New Brighton's style is English country, with homes boasting classic architecture and a modern flair. Charming details include arched entryways, lattice work, window boxes and carriage-style garage doors with ornamental handles and hinges. There are also traditional dormer windows and decorative shutters to add to the English country charm of the neighbourhood.

Abundant walking paths, green spaces and tot lots are surrounded by carefully chosen tree species. Serving as a habitat for birds and wildlife and improving air quality, trees on individual home lots and throughout the neighbourhood add to the area's natural beauty.

New Brighton show homes are open Monday to Thursday from 2-8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.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A PERFECT PLACE TO Play
You'll love what you can build in New Brighton. This vibrant, active community offers value-conscious home designs that will make the whole family feel right at home.

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york29 | Mint

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Morrison

NEW BRIGHTON

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Cherry, Almond and Wild-Rice-Stuffed Pork Loin

This recipe serves six to eight. NEWS CANADA

Unlikely trio of cherries, almonds, wild rice wows

This impressive dish features juicy pork tenderloin filled with dried cherries, hearty wild rice, herbs and roasted almonds.

It's sure to be the star of your gathering and will have your guests coming back for more!

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, warm olive oil. Add onions and sauté until translucent, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add sausage and garlic and cook until browned and cooked through. Remove from heat and add parsley, thyme, rosemary, dried cherries and almonds. Stir in wild rice; add salt and pepper to taste.

2. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Spread filleted pork loin out on a clean work surface. Top pork loin with prepared stuffing from edge to edge. Starting from the short side, roll pork loin and stuffing into a spiral.

3. Tie roll together with heavy-duty kitchen string in the centre and at the two ends of roast to prevent it from unrolling in the oven. Place roast on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and sprinkle generously with salt and pepper. Insert an oven-safe meat thermometer into the centre of the roast and cook for 1 hour. Reduce heat to 325 F (160 C) and continue to cook for another 45 to 60 minutes.

4. Remove roast from the oven once the meat thermometer reaches 160 F (71 C). Allow meat to rest in the pan, loosely covered with foil for 20 to 30 minutes.

5. Remove from pan and cut twine away from the roast. Slice and serve.

NEWS CANADA/ ALMOND BOARD

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 6 oz (170 g) Italian sausage, removed from casing
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) coarsely chopped dried cherries
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coarsely chopped roasted almonds
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked wild rice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 1/2 lb (1.1 kgs) boneless pork loin, filleted
- Kitchen twine for wrapping
- Salt and pepper for topping

Pricing in effect Thursday, November 29 to Sunday, December 2, 2012. Actual items may vary slightly from illustrations. Some illustrations are serving suggestions only. We reserve the right to limit quantities. GST is extra where applicable.

Asian Barley and Wild Rice Salad. Get your fibre in this very easy dish

1. In a large saucepan, bring wild rice and chicken broth to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Add barley and continue simmering an additional 40 minutes. Cover and let stand until all moisture is absorbed. Let cool.

2. In a large serving bowl, place barley mixture. Add remaining ingredients except pecans and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight. Add pecans just before serving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ALBERTA BARLEY COMMISSION

Ingredients

- 250 ml (1 cup) wild rice
- 1 l (4 cups) chicken broth
- 250 ml (1 cup) pot or pearl barley
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) soy sauce
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) rice vinegar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sesame oil
- 2 medium red peppers, chopped
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped green onions
- 500 ml (2 cups) frozen corn, thawed
- 500 ml (2 cups) chopped pecans

Both sides have valid claims in NHL negotiations: Expert

Lockout. League and players will meet separately with mediators again on Thursday

It's a good thing U.S. federal mediators aren't seeking to determine right and wrong while meeting with the NHL and NHL Players' Association this week.

According to sports management professor Aubrey Kent of Temple University in Philadelphia, both sides have a valid reason to claim that they are in the right when it comes to their ongoing labour dispute.

"For me, the whole issue comes down to perspective," Kent said Wednesday in an interview. "Players feel as though they're being bullied and strong-armed and having things taken away — I can see that that's a legitimate perspective. Owners feel from a dollar-value perspective that the next seven years they've offered would be far more lucrative than the previous seven years were, even as good as that was.

"And if you crunch the numbers, that's actually true as well."

No wonder the sides remain so entrenched in their positions.

They met separately with mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney on Wednesday afternoon at an undisclosed location — something Kent didn't anticipate would result in a "seismic" shift in perspective from either side. The non-binding sessions are intended to try and help the sides find some common ground, and will continue Thursday.

The last move at the bargaining table came from the NHLPA, which presented a new offer last week that moved within $182 million of the league over a five-year deal. Commissioner Gary Bettman said they remained "far apart."

The work stoppage comes at a time when NHL franchise values have never been higher, with the annual Forbes rankings released Wednesday valuing 20 of the league's 30 teams at $200 million or higher.

"Both sides feel they can get a better deal by waiting it out, but my view is that time only helps owners in these negotiations," said Kent. "And it's not just in this particular negotiation, but in any labour dispute. Employees are always at a disadvantage because salary lost is never regained.

"Whereas owners were there before the players and they'll be there after the players and they have plenty of time to make up anything that is lost."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian skier ready to launch assault on slopes

Larisa Yurkiw, from Owen Sound, Ont., prepares to blast out of the starting gate during a women's downhill training run at the Lake Louise Winterstart World Cup on Wednesday in Lake Louise, Alta. Yurkiw, competing at the Lake Louise World Cup for the first time since 2009, travelled a long road back from a catastrophic knee injury to be Canada's lone woman racing World Cup downhills this week. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey

Wings prospect faces 'super drunk' driving charges

Detroit Red Wings prospect Riley Sheahan faces charges under Michigan's tougher "super drunk" designation following a traffic stop during which police discovered him clad in a Teletubby costume.

According to a Grand Rapids police report obtained by MLive.com, Sheahan twice registered a blood alcohol level of 0.30 per cent following his arrest on Oct. 29. The driving limit is 0.08 per cent and the benchmark for the "super drunk" designation is 0.17 per cent.

Police say he was wearing the costume of a purple Teletubby, also known as Tinky Winky, during the stop. The 20-year-old Grand Rapids Griffins centre from St. Catharines played in college at Notre Dame.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

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Former ballerina turned skeleton racer looking lively on track

Road to Sochi.
Calgary's Sarah Reid needs two more top-six results to qualify for 2014 Winter Olympics

Sarah Reid competes at the women's World Cup skeleton event last Friday in Whistler, B.C. The 25-year-old Calgary racer has placed first and second in two of the season's first three World Cup events. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Sarah Reid tried to go from being a ballerina to a bobsledder, but the conversion did not work out as planned.

So she turned to the sport of skeleton instead. The move, which she made a decade ago, is paying off on the World Cup circuit this season.

The 25-year-old Calgary racer placed first and second in two of the season's first three World Cup events. As the team heads to Europe, she needs two more top-six results, including one next season, to qualify for the 2014 Winter Olympics.

"When I stopped dance, I wanted to do something really different, try something new, and I originally really wanted to do bobsleigh," she said. "I didn't even know what skeleton was at the time."

Reid, who specialized in the Cecchetti form of ballet, was on the verge of qualifying for her teaching certificate in the discipline when she had a change of heart. She contacted the national team's Calgary base, and arranged to go to a Bobsleigh Canada selection camp. But the diminutive Reid soon discovered that bobsled, which requires considerable strength and explosive speed to push a heavy sled, was not for her.

"Once I actually got out there in the ice house with all the other bobsleigh athletes, it was pretty apparent that I'm way too small for bobsleigh," she said. "I was really young at the time, too. So (Bobsleigh Canada officials) took me aside and put me in skeleton."

Canadian coach Duff Gibson said Reid's results have improved dramatically this season, as shown by her first World Cup gold and silver medals, but she is not doing much differently. One key difference is that she is relaxing her back and neck muscles to absorb the ice better as she slides.

"That's a very subtle difference," he said. "But it has an effect on her aerodynamics."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It was just time to try something different."

Skeleton competitor Sarah Reid on her new sled, which her coach Duff Gibson assumes is mostly responsible for the improvement for Reid, a "big competitor" who missed out on podiums prior to this season.

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The Toronto Raptors' DeMar DeRozan, left, eludes the Memphis Grizzlies' Mike Conley, centre, and Rudy Gay on Wednesday in Memphis, Tenn. Memphis beat Toronto 103-82. DANNY JOHNSTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banged-up Raps left feeling blue in Memphis

NBA. Toronto looks to free agency to reinforce hurting lineup

One move was forced upon them, a second was in hopes of providing a boost to a sore spot in the lineup and a third may be coming that will give the Raptors another veteran presence.

Oh, and they lost another game here on a Wednesday night of change.

With Andrea Bargnani on the shelf with a sore knee and Linas Kleiza inserted into a starting lineup devoid of production at one of the wing positions, the Raptors are toying with the idea of bringing veteran free agent Mickael Pietrus in on a minimum-value contract.

And with the offence struggling again Wednesday night and the wear and tear of back-to-back games getting to them in the second half, the Raptors never looked like they needed help more than after a 103-82 loss to the Memphis Grizzlies.

Pietrus, who played last season in Boston, is little more than a physical exam away from joining the Raptors but a history of knee issues — the Raptors vetoed a trade for him a year ago because of health concerns — would make his addition far from a certainty.

The Raptors got little from anyone in the second half after battling the Grizzlies, who own the best record in the NBA at 11-2, to a one-point game through the first two quarters.

But Memphis got off to an 11-1 run to open the third quarter and put the game away by finishing the third with a 33-14 bulge.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wednesday's game

Grizzlies	Raptors
103	82

WHL

Winterhawks coach banned for rest of season

The Western Hockey League suspended Portland Winterhawks head coach and general manager Mike Johnston for the rest of the season Thursday and announced the forfeiture of several draft picks after a series of league violations.

The Winterhawks were also fined $200,000. The disciplinary action was a result of player-benefit violations over the past four seasons, the WHL said in a release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLSE. Leafs first NHL team valued at $1B by Forbes

While the Toronto Maple Leafs became the first hockey team to be valued at $1 billion US by Forbes.com, the influential magazine concluded the fabled franchise got the "worst" value for the buck and said the NHL would be better off with increased revenue sharing.

The jump in value of the Maple Leafs — to $1 billion from the magazine's estimate of $521 million last year — is based in large part on the sale of 75 per cent of the team to telecom giants Rogers Communications and BCE Inc. and estimated revenues of $200 million. The telecoms paid $1.32 billion Cdn. for the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan's share of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, which also includes the Raptors, the Marlies, Toronto FC and the Air Canada Centre among other holdings.

"I suppose we should be flattered that we're on the top of the list, but we've no idea where they get their numbers," said MLSE president Tom Anselmi.

"The other statistic (worst value) is probably a reflection of the fact we haven't been in the playoffs in too many years," Anselmi added. "If we get back in the playoffs, we'll start climbing that list."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	10	3	.769	-1/2
Brooklyn	10	4	.714	—
New York	10	4	.714	—
Milwaukee	7	6	.538	21/2
Atlanta	9	4	.692	1/2
Philadelphia	9	6	.600	11/2
Boston	8	7	.533	21/2
Chicago	7	7	.500	3
Charlotte	7	7	.500	3
Indiana	7	8	.467	31/2
Orlando	5	9	.357	5
Detroit	5	11	.313	6
Cleveland	3	12	.200	71/2
Toronto	3	13	.188	8
Washington	1	12	.077	81/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	11	2	.846	1/2
San Antonio	13	3	.813	—
Oklahoma City	12	4	.750	1
Golden State	8	6	.571	4
L.A. Clippers	8	6	.571	4
Utah	9	7	.563	4
Denver	8	7	.533	41/2
L.A. Lakers	7	8	.467	51/2
Houston	7	8	.467	51/2
Minnesota	6	7	.462	51/2
Dallas	7	9	.438	6
Phoenix	7	9	.438	6
Portland	6	9	.400	61/2
Sacramento	4	10	.286	8
New Orleans	4	10	.286	8

Division leaders ranked in top four positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Wednesday's results
San Antonio 110 Orlando 89
Washington 84 Portland 82
Detroit 117 Phoenix 77
Brooklyn 95 Boston 83
Atlanta 94 Charlotte 91
Chicago 101 Dallas 78
Memphis 103 Toronto 82
New York 102 Milwaukee 88
Oklahoma City 120 Houston 98
Utah 96 New Orleans 84
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Philadelphia 100 Dallas 98
Phoenix 91 Cleveland 78
Houston 117 Toronto 101
Minnesota 97 Sacramento 89
Indiana 79 L.A. Lakers 77
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
San Antonio at Miami, 8 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Friday, November 30
Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Portland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 1
Portland at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Indiana at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

GRIZZLIES 103, RAPTORS 82

TORONTO (82)
DeRozan 5-10 4-4 16, Calderon 4-6 3-3 12, Lowry 3-10 5-7 12, Kleiza 5-15 1-1 11, Davis 3-4 4-4 10, Ross 4-13 0-2 8, Lucas 2-5 1-1 6, Johnson 1-4 0-0 2, Gray 1-1 0-0 2, Valanciunas 1-4 0-0 2, Acy 0-1 1-2 1, McGuire 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 29-74 19-24 82.
MEMPHIS (103)
Speights 7-11 3-4 18, Gasol 6-15 5-7 17, Randolph 7-10 3-4 17, Conley 4-6 4-6 16, Gay 5-13 1-2 14, Allen 3-5 3-4 9, Ellington 2-6 0-0 4, Pondexter 2-6 0-1 4, Bayless 1-5 0-0 2, Haddadi 1-1 0-0 2, Selby 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 38-80 19-28 103.

Toronto	27	20	14	21 — 82
Memphis	24	24	33	22 —103

3-Point Goals—Toronto 5-17 (Ross 0-6, Lowry 1-4, DeRozan 2-3, Calderon 1-2, Lucas 1-2). Memphis 8-18 (Conley 4-5, Gay 3-5, Bayless 0-2, Pondexter 0-2, Speights 1-1, Allen 0-1, Ellington 0-1, Gasol 0-1).
Rebounds—Toronto 33 (Davis 6, DeRozan 4, Lowry 4, Kleiza 3, Johnson 3, Gray 3, Calderon 2, McGuire 2, Valanciunas 2, Ross 2, Acy 2). Memphis 46 (Randolph 13, Speights 12, Gay 6, Gasol 5, Allen 4, Bayless 2, Pondexter 2, Ellington 1, Conley 1). **Assists—**Toronto 11 (Lowry 4). Memphis 28 (Randolph 6).
Total Fouls—Toronto 29, Memphis 19.
A—14,603. T—2:23

NBA LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	15	138	108	416	27.7
Anthony, NYK	13	121	71	342	26.3
Durant, Okl	15	125	115	389	25.9
James, Mia	13	129	51	327	25.2
Harden, Hou	14	107	109	351	25.1
Westbrook, Okl	15	114	68	317	21.1
Mayo, Dal	15	107	55	312	20.8
Aldridge, Por	13	107	54	268	20.6
Bosh, Mia	13	94	73	263	20.2
Pierce, Bos	14	89	75	281	20.1
Gay, Mem	12	90	41	236	19.7
Lopez, Bro	13	107	36	250	19.2
Lillard, Por	14	94	45	267	19.1
Ellis, Mil	12	89	42	229	19.1
Duncan, SA	15	111	57	280	18.7
Holiday, Phi	15	107	45	278	18.5
Curry, GoS	14	87	50	257	18.4
DeRozan, Tor	15	103	62	274	18.3
Crawford, LAC	14	82	59	252	18.0
Bargnani, Tor	15	99	45	268	17.9
Howard, LAL	15	97	75	269	17.9
Batum, Por	14	87	40	249	17.8
Anderson, NO	13	88	8	230	17.7
Matthews, Por	14	87	38	246	17.6
Parker, SA	14	104	31	245	17.5
Deng, Chi	13	86	40	224	17.2
Monroe, Det	15	100	55	255	17.0
Randolph, Mem	12	80	43	203	16.9
Griffin, LAC	14	94	47	235	16.8
Williams, Bro	13	71	56	217	16.7
Walker, Cha	13	79	51	216	16.6
West, Ind	15	100	48	248	16.5
Jennings, Mil	12	78	25	198	16.5
Cousins, Sac	12	82	32	197	16.4
Jefferson, Uta	15	102	41	246	16.4
Lee, GoS	14	97	36	230	16.4
Sessions, Cha	13	67	72	213	16.4
Dragic, Pho	15	83	51	243	16.2
Paul, LAC	14	77	58	225	16.1
Horford, Atl	11	79	17	175	15.9
Garnett, Bos	14	88	46	222	15.9
Martin, Okl	15	67	65	235	15.7

NCAA

AP TOP 25

FOOTBALL

Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Pac-12 Championship
No. 8 Stanford vs. No. 17 UCLA, 8 p.m.
MAC Championship — At Detroit
No. 18 Kent St. vs. No. 19 Northern Ill., 7 p.m.
Saturday's games
No. 7 Kansas St. vs. No. 23 Texas, 8 p.m.
No. 12 Oklahoma at Texas Christian, 12 p.m.
No. 16 Oregon St. vs. Nicholls St., 2:30 p.m.
No. 24 Oklahoma St. at Baylor, 12 p.m.
No. 25 Boise St. at Nevada, 3:30 p.m.
SEC Championship — At Atlanta
No. 2 Alabama vs. No. 3 Georgia, 4 p.m.
ACC Championship — At Charlotte, N.C.
No. 13 Florida St. vs. Georgia Tech, 8 p.m.
Big 10 Championship — At Indianapolis
No. 14 Nebraska vs. Wisconsin, 8:15 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Wednesday's results
No. 2 Duke vs. No. 4 Ohio State
No. 9 Arizona vs. Northern Arizona
No. 11 Creighton 70. Boise State 83
No. 13 Michigan State 59 Miami 67
No. 22 Illinois vs. Georgia Tech
No. 24 UNLV vs. UC Irvine
No. 25 New Mexico vs. Mercer
Thursday's games
No. 7 Florida vs. Marquette, 9 p.m.
No. 8 Kentucky at Notre Dame, 7 p.m.
No. 12 Gonzaga vs. Lewis-Clark State, 9 p.m.
Friday's Games
No. 6 Syracuse at Arkansas, 8:30 p.m.
No. 10 Kansas vs. Oregon State at the Sprint Center, Kansas City, Mo., 8 p.m.
No. 20 Georgetown vs. Tennessee, 6:30 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS CUP

Saturday, Dec. 1 — All Times Eastern
Houston vs. Los Angeles, 4:30 p.m.

UEFA

EUROPA LEAGUE

Wednesday's result
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona 0 Athletic Bilbao 2

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Wednesday's results
Chelsea 0 Fulham 0
Everton 1 Arsenal 1
Southampton 1 Norwich 1
Stoke City 2 Newcastle 1
Swansea 3 West Brom 1
Tottenham 2 Liverpool 1
Manchester United 1 West Ham 0
Wigan 0 Manchester City 2

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday's result
Blackburn 1 Bolton 2

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Manchester	18	9	6	2	1	49	43	21
St. John's	20	10	9	0	1	49	55	21
Worcester	18	9	7	1	1	50	56	20
Portland	18	8	8	1	1	57	61	18
Providence	16	7	8	0	1	33	48	15

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	17	10	3	1	3	59	36	24
Bridgeport	17	10	7	0	0	56	57	20
Connecticut	17	9	7	1	0	58	57	19
Adirondack	18	9	9	0	0	46	50	18
Albany	16	4	7	0	5	37	49	13

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	17	12	3	1	1	65	42	26
Binghamton	16	10	4	1	1	45	38	22
W-B/Scranton	18	11	7	0	0	48	40	22
Hershey	19	8	10	1	0	49	55	17
Norfolk	18	7	11	0	0	50	63	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	18	12	2	2	2	51	32	28
Lake Erie	19	10	7	1	1	60	57	22
Rochester	17	9	7	1	0	60	52	19
Toronto	18	9	8	0	1	58	52	19
Hamilton	16	6	8	1	1	34	52	14

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	17	10	5	1	1	62	53	22
Rockford	20	10	9	0	1	64	64	21
Chicago	18	8	7	2	1	51	58	19
Milwaukee	18	8	8	1	1	51	56	18
Peoria	18	6	9	2	1	43	66	15

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	19	12	5	0	2	67	52	26
Oklahoma City	18	11	5	1	1	62	53	24
Houston	18	9	6	1	2	61	55	21
Texas	17	8	7	1	1	42	51	18
San Antonio	18	5	10	0	3	43	57	13

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.
Wednesday's results
St. John's 3 Adirondack 2
San Antonio 4 Rochester 2
Hershey 5 Norfolk 2
Rockford 4 Chicago 2
Tuesday's result
Texas 5 Rockford 4
Thursday, Nov. 29
All Times Eastern
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 30
Springfield at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Bridgeport at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
St. John's at Albany, 7 p.m.
Texas at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Worcester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Syracuse at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
San Antonio at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Hamilton at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	407	244
Miami	5	6	0	.455	211	226
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	221	290
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	243	319

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	1	0	.909	327	211
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	230	273
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	238	335
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	188	308

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	2	0	.818	283	219
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	231	210
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.545	282	247
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	209	248

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	3	0	.727	318	221
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	245	237
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	218	356
Kansas City	1	10	0	.091	161	301

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	305	226
Washington	5	6	0	.455	295	285
Dallas	5	6	0	.455	242	262
Philadelphia	3	8	0	.273	184	282

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	10	1	0	.909	294	216
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	310	254
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	308	304
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	214	265

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	277	175
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	273	245
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	248	249
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	267	280

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	2	1	.773	276	155
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	219	185
St. Louis	4	6	1	.409	205	254
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	180	227

WEEK 13

Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Arizona at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.

GOLF

PGA

WORLD RANKING

Through November 26

1. Rory McIlroy	13.61
2. Luke Donald	9.28
3. Tiger Woods	8.89
4. Justin Rose	6.66
5. Adam Scott	6.50
6. Lee Westwood	6.39
7. Louis Oosthuizen	6.35
8. Jason Dufner	5.74
9. Webb Simpson	5.61
10. Brandt Snedeker	5.56
11. Bubba Watson	5.39
12. Ian Poulter	5.13
13. Phil Mickelson	5.13
14. Steve Stricker	4.98
15. Keegan Bradley	4.90
16. Nick Watney	4.86
17. Peter Hanson	4.81
18. Matt Kuchar	4.79
19. Dustin Johnson	4.73
20. Ernie Els	4.64
21. Sergio Garcia	4.58
22. Zach Johnson	4.57
23. Bo Van Pelt	4.38
24. Graeme McDowell	4.30
25. Hunter Mahan	4.10
26. Jim Furyk	3.90
27. Paul Lawrie	3.77
28. Charl Schwartzel	3.72
29. Francesco Molinari	3.59
30. Rickie Fowler	3.55

LPGA TOUR

MONEY LEADERS

Through November 26

	Trn	Money
1. Inbee Park	24	$2,287,080
2. Na Yeon Choi	23	$1,981,834
3. Stacy Lewis	26	$1,872,409
4. Yani Tseng	24	$1,430,159
5. Ai Miyazato	23	$1,334,977
6. So Yeon Ryu	24	$1,282,673
7. Jiyai Shin	18	$1,234,597
8. Azahara Munoz	26	$1,230,751
9. Suzann Pettersen	24	$1,182,860
10. Shanshan Feng	19	$1,101,147
11. Mika Miyazato	20	$1,098,749
12. Karrie Webb	20	$884,973
13. Amy Yang	22	$844,305
14. Cristie Kerr	23	$837,314
15. Paula Creamer	23	$815,574
16. Angela Stanford	26	$794,294
17. Sun Young Yoo	23	$781,587
18. Catriona Matthew	20	$714,272
19. Anna Nordqvist	27	$688,703
20. Chella Choi	27	$634,622
21. Lexi Thompson	23	$611,021
22. Hee Kyung Seo	25	$600,403
23. Brittany Lincicome	24	$581,631
24. Brittany Lang	25	$575,263
25. Sandra Gal	26	$574,323
26. I.K. Kim	21	$561,302
27. Karine Icher	24	$541,532
28. Candie Kung	25	$485,963
29. Haeji Kang	24	$456,425
30. Jenny Shin	25	$447,731

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you know a secret about a friend, you are strongly advised to keep it to yourself. Don't embarrass them by letting other people in on information they don't need to be aware of. You have secrets too!

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You won't find it hard to win people round to your way of thinking. With your ruler, Venus, linked nicely to energy planet Mars others want to believe every word you say. Whether or not it's true is another matter.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Forget about your chores and responsibilities and do something strictly for fun. This is not a day to push yourself hard. This is a day to take things easy. Time spent in the company of friends will not be time wasted.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Today should be a fun day for you, followed by a fabulous Friday and a stunning Saturday. Romance is under good stars right now, so let a special person know just how much you think of them.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will find it easier than usual to deal with family issues today, so make a point of trying to resolve disagreements with loved ones. It must not be all one-way traffic. It's not about blame, it's about helping each other.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Relaxation and affection are the keywords today. That applies not only to your dealings with loved ones but also to those you work with. Your laid back attitude will draw people to you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Listen to what others tell you and act on their advice. You may wonder why they are so eager to help you but the planets indicate there is no need to be suspicious. They just want to see you do well.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Cosmic changes over the next few days will bring challenges of a serious nature, but that does not mean you can't have fun as well. Today's Venus-Mars link will bring out your playful side — and maybe your romantic side too.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't let money worries get in the way of taking a personal relationship to a new level. You don't have to spend a fortune to have fun with the object of your affection, just do things together that you both enjoy.

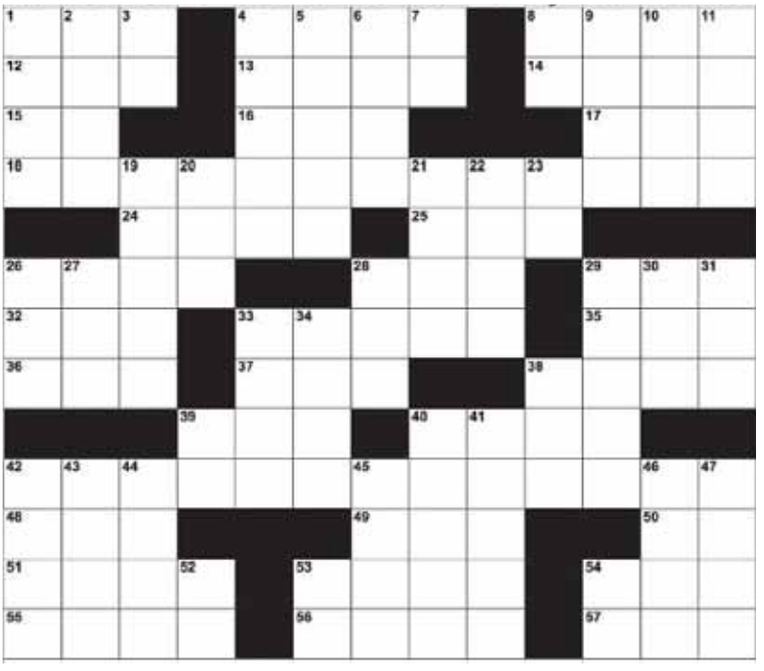
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make sure you get out and about, and interact with wide a range of people today. The more you are on the move, the more likely it is you will meet someone with whom you can make beautiful music.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Watch out for opportunities to boost your reputation today. Venus in the career area of your chart, linked to go-getting Mars, will open doors to you that may have been closed before. Or maybe you never knew they existed!

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your sparkling personality will draw people to you like moths to a flame today. Wherever you go, others will want to be your friend, and you'll have more than enough warmth to go around. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

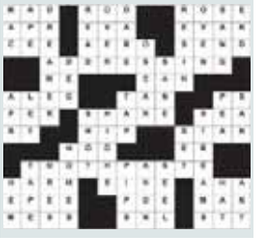
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Pot cover
4. Heard on Perry Mason
8. Wing reach
12. Electrified particle
13. Inspired
14. Tedious office job
15. Movie alien
16. Cheers was one
17. Orange Pekoe or Earl Grey
18. Buffy the — — (2 words)
24. First class (2 words)
25. Carol Burnett tugged this
26. Bundle
28. Barn layer
29. Precious jewel
32. Food scrap
33. Easel board
35. — Speedwagon
36. Mornings (abbr.)
37. Exclamations of contentment
38. He played the Skipper on Gilligan's Island
39. Scrape out a living
40. Slime
42. Set a programme to music
48. Sales agent (abbr.)
49. Hard knock
50. Egyptian Sun God
51. Extremely dry
53. Found in an atlas
54. " — Cup"
55. Greet
56. Pochard
57. Wheel of Fortune purchase

Down
1. Actor Schreiber
2. Small amount
3. He starred in "The Pink Panther" movies (init.)
4. Log home
5. Alert
6. Withered
7. Asner or Norton
8. Nora on Brothers & Sisters (init.)
9. Feel sorry for
10. Aweather
11. Close by
19. Soda fountain treats
20. "The Raven" poet
21. As — on TV
22. Acreage
23. State where Evening Shade was set (abbr.)
26. Fancy scarf
27. Upper limb
28. This Hour — 22 Minutes
29. Diagram
30. Slippery fish
31. One of The Three Stooges
33. Japanese wine
34. Only Cosby son the The Cosby Show
38. Jump
39. Hospital waiting room (abbr.)
40. Green or purple fruit
41. Slip up
42. Study hard for a test
43. — Come the Brides
44. Early Ron Howard role
45. Metric weight
46. Moran of Happy Days
47. Giant powerful dog: Great —
52. The star of The Apprentice (init.)
53. Form of address
54. British thanks

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

			3	2			5	7
4	3			5	9			1
	4				3		9	
	1	2				6	7	
	5		8				1	
9			1	6			4	2
1	8			3	5			

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	7	6	3	2	4	9	8
4	6	9	1	8	5	2	7	3
2	8	3	9	7	4	1	6	5
8	4	2	3	1	6	9	5	7
1	7	5	2	9	8	6	3	4
3	9	6	5	4	7	8	1	2
7	2	1	8	5	9	3	4	6
6	3	4	7	2	1	5	8	9
9	5	8	4	6	3	7	2	1

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 0° MIN: -11°	MAX: -4° MIN: -5°	MAX: 2° MIN: -3°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

ANDREW SCHULTZ
METEOROLOGIST
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WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

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